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REMARKS

Claims 1-11 are pending in the present Application. No claims have been amended or added. Claims 9-11 have been previously withdrawn, leaving Claims 1-8 for further consideration. Reconsideration and allowance of the claims are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claims 1, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,873,174 to Matsunaga et al. (hereinafter "Matsunaga"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

The presently claimed invention relates to processing of a defective pixel in a display panel. More particularly, independent Claim 1 discloses "prior to the at least one step of forming a planarization insulating film, a step of disconnecting a line between the display element and the power source line with regard to a defective pixel." Similarly, independent Claim 4 discloses "with regard to a pixel which is determined by the continuity test to be defective, disconnecting a line between the display element and the power source line via the thin film transistor...".

Matsunaga discloses a testing method for testing short-circuiting and disconnection in a display device. Matsunaga fails to disclose disconnection of a line for a defective pixel before formation of a planarizing insulation film 999 and repairing the hole by the planarization insulating film 999. Further, Matsunaga also states that the timing of the test is preferably before the EL layer is formed (Column 20, lines 50-60), which differs from the timing of testing in the presently claimed invention. The reference numeral 999 is assigned to the planarization film above the interlayer insulating film by the Examiner, and, thus, the planarizing insulating film 999 in Matsunaga does not have a particular function nor a particular advantage.

For at least the reason that Matsunaga fails to disclose disconnection of a line for a defective pixel before formation of a planarizing insulation film, Matsunaga fails to teach or disclose at least one claimed element of independent Claims 1 and 4. As such, independent

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Claims 1 and 4 are not anticipated and are therefore allowable. Moreover, as dependent claims from an allowable independent claim, Claims 3, 5, 6, and 8 are, by definition, also allowable.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 2 and 7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as allegedly being unpatentable over Matsunaga et al. as applied to claim 1 or 4 above, and further in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No.2002/0154079 to Shiota et al. (hereinafter "Shiota") Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claims 2 and 7 are allowable for at least the reason that one claimed element is not taught or suggested by Matsunaga either alone or in combination with Shiota.

Matsunaga fails to disclose or suggest disconnection of a line for a defective pixel before formation of a planarizing insulation film. The Examiner relies upon Shiota for teaching laser irradiation. However, Shiota fails to cure the deficiencies of the primary reference. In other words, even if combined, the combined references would still fail to teach or suggest disconnection of a line for a defective pixel before formation of a planarizing insulation film. As such, independent Claims 1 and 4 are not obvious and are therefore allowable. Moreover, as dependent claims from an allowable independent claim, Claims 2 and 7 are, by definition, also allowable.

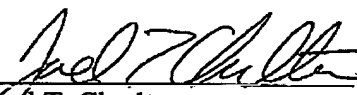
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In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the instant application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this application be allowed and a Notice of Allowance issued. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference with the undersigned would be advantageous to the disposition of this case, the Examiner is cordially requested to telephone the undersigned.

If there are any additional charges with respect to this Amendment or otherwise, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 06-1130.

Respectfully submitted,

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